



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Office of the Commissioner



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H.B. No. 5419 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF THE SAVIN FARM IN LEBANON'

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture supports the spirit of H.B. No. 5419 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF THE SAVIN FARM IN LEBANON.'

Farmland is a precious, nonrenewable, and threatened resource essential to the production of healthful food and other agricultural products for Connecticut's residents. It provides numerous other benefits, including working landscapes that act in conservation of wildlife, purification of air, and mitigation of heat and other environmental factors.

Preserving, in perpetuity, the state's prime and important soils for agricultural purposes is vital to the health of Connecticut's citizens and its environment, both now and for all of the state's generations to follow.

Last year, the General Assembly enacted legislation to preserve the farm at Southbury Training School. This was an outstanding accomplishment and the Department of Agriculture is in the midst of executing that legislation.

The agency recommends completing the process at Southbury before moving ahead with the same model at other properties so that any kinks can be identified and worked out. In the long run, this will save time and taxpayer resources as the state moves ahead in its preservation of other state-owned prime and important farmland soils and farm units.